

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, VETERANS
AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

02/27/2024-REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

BILL NO. 35-0223

Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

January 18, 2024

An Act renaming a portion of Gamle Gade “William A. Industrious Street”

PROPOSED BY: Senators Carla J. Joseph, Ray Fonseca, and Donna A. Frett-Gregory

1 **WHEREAS**, Bishop Dr. William Alfred Industrious is the fifth of twelve children from
2 the union of the late James Industrious and Carmelita Hodge-Industrious; and

3 **WHEREAS**, after leaving school during the fourth standard, William or Alfred, as he
4 was so commonly called, started to create opportunities for himself through humble beginnings
5 of growing “sugar cane” and traveling on a donkey for the selling of crops.; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Alfred’s participation in training young stubborn mules and jockeying
7 horses gave him the exposure in his future work of teaching people from various backgrounds
8 and cultures in the ministry.; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Alfred’s early years of employment consisted of being that of a
10 construction worker with numerous organizations. In addition, he also assisted with the
11 construction of the former Virgin Islands’ Hilton Hotel.; and

12 **WHEREAS**, after the opening of the hotel, Alfred served approximately 13 years as a
13 waiter which consisted of interacting with people from all walks of life, and in 1955, he worked
14 as a taxi driver with various organizations and at several locations such as: Cyril E. King
15 Airport, Caneel Bay Ground Transportation Services, Smith Bay and East End Taxi Services

1 and was self-employed for approximately 60 years in the taxi business serving the tourism
2 industry; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Pastor Industrious entered into the ministry which was the beginning of a
4 long-lasting legacy of building the lives of people and believing that God sent His Son, Jesus
5 Christ to pay the price for freedom from sin, sicknesses, and, poverty. He has been a pastor
6 for more than 60 years, and

7 **WHEREAS**, Pastor Industrious refused receiving a salary for ministry for the
8 community worked he performed believing that there should be no cost for sharing the gift of
9 salvation with people. His journey consisted of various leadership roles during his tenure in
10 the Apostolic Faith Church which lasted approximately 28 years where he juggled his time
11 between his role as a husband, father and church member; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Pastor Industrious participated in various ministries: namely, choir
13 member, board member, teacher, evangelist, soloist and assistant pastor, and in 1986, he began
14 his work as the Pastor of Christian Unity Church and under his tutelage, ministerial units were
15 established which consisted of: youth and women ministries, radio broadcasting, prison and
16 hospital ministries and he led a team of believers to minister to the poor, prisoners, youth, and
17 anyone who had a problem.; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Pastor Industrious assumed the role of a driver transporting persons free of
19 charge to and from church, giving help to those who needed financial help, and providing
20 services to those who needed guidance with challenges through application of the Word of
21 God. Under his mentorship, many individuals have emerged as pastors leading their own
22 ministries both locally and abroad; and

23 **WHEREAS**, in 1996, under his leadership, the Christian Unity Church was constructed
24 at the 6B Gamle Gade location where this two-story building serves the needs of visitors, the
25 congregation, and the community; and

1 **WHEREAS**, On May 22, 2004, Pastor Industrious was bestowed an Honorary Doctorate
2 of Divinity Degree from Ebenezer Bible Institute for his exemplary service, leadership role and
3 community involvement; and

4 **WHEREAS**, beyond the church setting, Dr. Industrious' generous spirit helped many
5 individuals particularly the less fortunate and he utilized his resources, finances, and time to
6 serve families who faced challenging times within the community; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Industrious was married approximately 68 years to the late, Rehena
8 Brathwaite-Industrious and from that union they have seven children 29 grandchildren, 42
9 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren; and

10 **WHEREAS**, putting God first was the foundation of his family and each day began with
11 a family devotional period where the Bible was read, prayers were offered, and spiritual values
12 taught in the home and he demonstrated dedication to ensuring that he continued this legacy
13 for his family by taking his grandchildren to church every Sunday with him; and

14 **WHEREAS**, there are currently many ministers serving in the Christian Unity Church
15 including Lead Pastor, Angela Rawlins, and Dr. Industrious now serves as Senior Pastor in the
16 ministry; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Industrious is the epitome of creating opportunities in the midst of
18 challenges, while having made a long-lasting impact on building global leaders for generations
19 to come. His message to others is that success begins and ends with honoring and living by
20 God's Word and when one does so, everything that one does in life will always matter as it is
21 important to one's growth and success in life and one's life will be blessed. Now, Therefore,
22 ***Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:***

23 **SECTION 1.** The Legislature of the Virgin Islands, on behalf of the people of the Virgin
24 Islands, honors Bishop Dr. William Alfred Industrious for his service to the people of the
25 Virgin Islands through his transportation service and ministry which brought so much joy to
26 the people of the Virgin Islands and the entire Caribbean.

